

Winter 2002-2003

Lightning Warrior

Dispatch

Serving the 93rd Signal Brigade family from Fort Gordon, Ga.

**Augustans arm
themselves**

**Inside: WWII Navajo
Code-Talker speaks
to signal soldiers**



Lightning Warrior Dispatch

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Winter 2002-2003

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Photo by Pfc. Joseph Strong
B Co. 67th Signal Battalion

Brian Hatch, Advertising, Inc., conducts a squad patrol on one of Fort Gordon's Training Areas, during the December 2002, Augusta in Army Boot program.

Brigade Commander – Col. Daniel M. Gerstein
PAO NCO — Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

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views of the U.S. government, Defense Department, Department of the Army, U.S. Army Forces Command or the U.S. Army Signal Command. *Comments and submissions should be sent to Sgt. McCargo at (706) 791-9309 (e-mail: mccargok@gordon.army.mil).* The dispatch is released quarterly. Submissions are gladly accepted. An electronic copy is also available at <http://www.gordon.army.mil/93sig/93rdsighm1.htm>.



**93rd Signal Brigade
Commander
Col. Daniel Gerstein**

Happy New Year and welcome back to all our Lightning Warriors after what I trust was a wonderful holiday season.

The holiday season is always a time for reflection and counting our many blessings. As Americans, we live in the greatest country in the world, a place where constraints are few and opportunities are plentiful. America has been and continues to be a beckon of hope for nations around the globe. We are a peace-loving people, slow to anger, but with great resolve. Our nation is a place where children grow up with hopes and dreams for a brighter tomorrow, and actually have the possibility to reach their aspirations.

As soldiers, families and civilians in the Army and in the 93rd Signal Brigade family, we are doubly blessed as we serve this great nation of ours in a very real and essential way. We are defending America to ensure that our way of life and indeed our very future is protected for

generations to come. You can and should be very proud of your service. You should also be very proud in your accomplishments over the past year. You are trained and ready with great discipline and esprit. Many of you have

Voice of the Commander 'Triumph through preparation'

already had the opportunity to deploy on various missions and have demonstrated great proficiency and professionalism as you have gone about your duties. In fact, 93rd Signal Brigade soldiers and civilians have seen deployments to over 20 countries in 2002.

As we welcome in 2003, there remains much instability around the world and great uncertainty about the upcoming year. There are a number of global hotspots from the situation in Iraq to the impasse on the Korean peninsula with regard to North Korea's nuclear program to the instability in Colombia caused by narco-traffickers just to name a few. In addition, there remains great concern about protection of the homeland. We, soldiers and civilians of the 93rd, are integrally involved in some way with all aspects of our national security.

I mentioned the world situation as an introduction to our goals for the next year. First, we must remain trained and ready for any and all potential missions from warfighting to peacekeeping to homeland defense. In a 1902 address at the graduation ceremony at the United States Naval Academy, President Theodore Roosevelt stated, "It cannot be repeated too often that in modern war, the chief factor in achieving triumph is what has been done in the way of thorough preparation and training before the beginning of the war." Perhaps at no time in our nation's history

has this been any truer than it is today. Today we stand ready to respond when called upon and we will continue to train to be ready in the future.

Secondly we must take care of our soldiers and families. This is non-negotiable, and to do anything less would put our mission accomplishment at risk. The time to make personal preparations and prepare our families is now. Simply stated, our Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) must have the same attention to detail as our operations orders and our training plans.

Finally, we must continue to build the esprit de corps that has sustained great soldiers and units throughout the history of warfare, and ultimately led to mission accomplishment. Gen. George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the Army, on the eve of World War II stated, "It is morale that wins the victory. With it, all things are possible; without it, everything else – planning, preparation and production count for nothing." This remains as true today as it was then.

We cannot predict the future, but we can ready ourselves for what it will bring. The time is now. Our mission is clear, "to protect and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

I am confident that just as in 2002, the Lightning Warriors of the 93rd Signal Brigade will continue to lead the way!



Photo by Pfc. Joseph Strong



Hit the Dirt!

Augustans hit the deck as an OPFOR team attacks them during the Augusta in Army Boots training program December 8.

Even the civilians are joining in "... to protect and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic."



Soldier Soldier^{TO}

By Command Sgt. Maj. Paul E. Scandrick

93rd Signal Brigade, Command Sergeant Major

The Ultimate Executors of the Army's Mission

The Army's mission is to deter war. We do it by being prepared to fight and win.

The Army has to be prepared—literally—for anything.

We have to be ready here and now and the key to readiness begins at the section and team levels.

That key is cohesion or teamwork.

The person who is closest to the individual soldier is instrumental in developing cohesion and teamwork.

The noncommissioned officer is the one who can instill the warrior spirit and mold a small group of soldiers into a combat-effective team.

NCOs have been trainers, leaders and war-fighters throughout the evolution of our colorful history.

No one is more professional than the NCO ... we are the keepers of the keys, which unlock the doors to professionalism and technical competence.

NCOs are expected to know their job, know their subordinates' job, and know their leaders' job. Not only that, but they must train their subordinates to perform tasks to a higher level.

Training is what the Army does at peacetime and it's what NCOs do most and best.

Earlier I described NCOs as trainers, leaders and war-fighters. Training came first in that description for a very good reason. In addition to providing day-to-day leadership of the subordinate soldiers, training is the No. 1 responsibility of our NCO Corps.

An experienced officer who has served in the Army for more than a few years, if the officer is honest, can tell you a story about an NCO who, "taught me everything I know."

The NCO Corps provides the continuity and expertise that keeps the Army's training programs on track in every way;

from planning, conducting and evaluating how well the training was executed.

Our role is critical and our task will not get easier.

NCOs are in the people business and today's professional NCO has no match as trainers, leaders and war-fighters, techni-

cians and managers, mentors and counselors.

The Army's NCO Corps has been the backbone of the Army since 1778 and is prepared to be the ultimate executors of the Army's mission for the present and the future.



Command Sgt. Maj. Paul E. Scandrick presents Staff Sgt. Donald Ross, 67th Sig. Bn., a plaque for being selected the 93rd Sig. Bde., 2002 NCO of the Year by demonstrating his dedication to duty, professional military bearing, and high standards.

Photo by Pfc. Spencer Wilson



Courtesy photo

The Brown Recluse's venom attacks muscle tissue at a phenomenal rate. As seen above an individual's bite wound eleven days after the spider's initial bite.

The itsy-bitsy spider strikes back

By Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Brigade PAO NCO

The itsy-bitsy spider was hopping mad.

She had been climbing up the spout for the entire day and some human just came along and washed her out. She must get to the top of that spout—just had too.

But every time she started climbing that human would wash her out.

She had to take the human out of the equation then. A strike mission was in order.

The brigade safety office wants to warn all soldiers about the potential hazards of angering spiders. One in particular, popular in the Georgia region, is the Brown Recluse, or fiddle back, spider.

Adult brown recluse spiders are soft-bodied, yellowish-tan to dark brown, about a quarter to .5 inches in length and have long, delicate grayish to dark brown legs covered with short, dark hairs. The leg span is about the size of a half dollar, according to William F. Lyon, Ohio State University, entomology department.

These spiders spin small, loose, off-white webs, where the female spider will lay her eggs from May through August in off-white silken cases about 1/3-inch in diameter. Sacs containing 40 or more eggs each is found hung in the web, through the winter in sheltered, dark areas and are guarded by the female until her death, said Lyon.

This spider is most active at night when it comes out in search

of food consisting of cockroaches and other small insects. During the day, time is spent in quiet, undisturbed places such as bathrooms, bedrooms, closets, basements and cellars. The spiders sometimes take shelter under furniture, appliances and carpets, behind baseboards and door facings, or in corners and crevices. Some have been found in stored clothing, old shoes, on the undersides of tables and chairs, and in folded bedding and undisturbed towels that have been stored for long periods of time. Outdoors, the spider may be found in sheltered corners among debris, in woodpiles, under loose bark and stones, in old barns, storage sheds and garages. These spiders are very adaptable and may be active in temperatures ranging from 45 to 110 deg F, said Lyon.

The severity of a person's reaction to the bite depends on the amount of venom injected and individual sensitivity to it. Bite effects may be nothing at all, immediate or delayed. Some may not be aware of the bite for 2 to 8 hours, whereas others feel a stinging sensation usually followed by intense pain if there is a severe reaction. A small white blister usually rises at the bite site surrounded by a large congested and swollen area. Within 24 to 36 hours, a systemic reaction may occur with the victim characterized by restlessness, fever, chills,

nausea, weakness and joint pain. The affected area enlarges, becomes inflamed and the tissue is hard to the touch. The spider's venom contains an enzyme that destroys cell membranes in the wound area with affected tissue gradually sloughing away, exposing underlying tissues. Within 24 hours, the bite site can erupt into a "volcano lesion," a hole in the flesh due to damaged, gangrenous tissue, said Lyon.

If bitten, Lyon says remain calm, collect the spider, if possible, for positive identification and get medical attention immediately.

Contact your physician, hospital and/or Poison Information Center. Apply antiseptic solution to prevent infection and ice packs to relieve local swelling and pain directly to the bite area.



Courtesy photo

Often miss identified the *Loxosceles reclusa*, or Brown Recluse Spider is about the size of a half dollar coin.

Pack security and common sense into your luggage and have ...

A SAFE TRIP ABROAD

By Spc. Angel Porras

Brigade Security Clerk

When traveling outside the continental U.S. personal safety is one of many issues that the 93rd Signal Brigade command wants to stress. Crime and violence, as well as unexpected difficulties, do happen to U.S. citizens in all parts of the world.

Here are some tips for soldiers traveling outside the country for either a permanent change of station, temporary duty assignment or on leave orders. Remember to notify your unit's S-2 office about departures overseas before leaving.

Safety begins when you pack.

To avoid being a target, dress conservatively.

Don't wear expensive looking jewelry. A flashy wardrobe or one that is too casual can mark you as a tourist. Avoid the appearance of affluence as much as possible.

Always try to travel light. You can move more quickly, have a hand free, and reduce the likelihood of leaving your luggage unattended.

Carry the minimum amount of valuables necessary for your trip and have a place to conceal them. Your passport, cash and credit cards are most secure when they are locked in a hotel safe. When you have to keep them on you, you should conceal each of them in several different places, rather than putting them all in one wallet or pouch. Avoid handbags, fanny packs and outside pockets, which are easy targets for thieves.

What to Learn About Before You Go

The Department of State's **Consular Information Sheets** has information available about every country worldwide. They describe entry requirements, currency regulations, unusual health conditions, the crime and security situation, political disturbances, areas of instability, and special information about driving and road conditions.

They also provide addresses and emergency telephone numbers for U.S. embassies and consulates.

In general, Consular Sheets do not give advice but describe existing conditions so travelers can make informed decisions

about their trips.

PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE WHEN TRAVELING ABROAD

Use the same common sense traveling overseas that you would at home. Be especially cautious in or avoid areas where you are likely to be victimized. These include crowded subways, train stations, elevators, tourist sites, market places, festivals and the marginal areas of cities.

Don't use short cuts, narrow alleys or poorly lit streets. Try not to travel alone at night. Avoid public demonstrations and other civil disturbances.

Keep a low profile and avoid loud conversations or arguments. Do not discuss travel plans or other personal matters with strangers.

Avoid scam artists.

Beware of strangers who approach you, offering bargains or to be your guide.

Beware of pickpockets.

They often have an accomplice who will:

- Jostle you,
- Ask you for directions or the time,
- Point to something spilled on your clothing,
- or distract you by creating a disturbance.

A child or even a woman carrying a baby can be a pickpocket. Beware of groups of vagrant children who create a distraction while picking your pocket.

Wear the shoulder strap of your bag across your chest and walk with the bag away from the curb to avoid drive-by purse-snatchers.

Try to seem purposeful when you move about. Even if you are lost, act as if you know where you are going. When possible, ask directions only from individuals in authority.

Know how to use a pay telephone and have the proper change or token on hand.

Learn a few phrases in the local language so you can either signal for help, the police, or a doctor. Make a note of emergency telephone numbers you may need: police, fire, your hotel, and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

If you are confronted, don't fight back. Give up your valuables. Your money and passport can be replaced, but you cannot.

Terrorist acts occur at random and are unpredictable, making it impossible to protect yourself absolutely. The first and best protection is to avoid travel to unsafe areas where there has been a persistent record of terrorist attacks or kidnappings. The vast majority of foreign states have good records of maintaining public order and protecting residents and visitors within their borders from terrorism.

Most terrorist attacks are the result of long and careful planning. Just as a car thief will first be attracted to an unlocked car with the key in the ignition; terrorists are looking for defenseless, easily accessible targets that follow predictable patterns. The chances that a tourist, traveling with an unpublished program or itinerary, will become a terrorist victim are slight. In addition, many terrorist groups, seeking publicity for political

causes within their own country or region, may not be looking for American targets.

Nevertheless, the following pointers may help you avoid becoming a target of opportunity. These tips should be considered in addition to the tips listed previously. These precautions may provide

some degree of protection, and can serve as practical and psychological deterrents to would-be terrorists.

- Schedule direct flights if possible and avoid stops in high-risk airports or areas. Consider other options for travel, such as trains.
- Be aware of what you discuss with strangers or what may be overheard by others.
- Try to minimize the time spent in the public area of an airport, which is a less protected area. Move quickly from the check-in counter to the secured areas. On arrival, leave the airport as soon as possible.
- As much as possible, avoid luggage tags, dress and behavior that may identify you as an American.
- Keep an eye out for suspicious abandoned packages or briefcases. Report them to airport security or other authorities and leave the area promptly.
- Avoid obvious terrorist targets such as places where Americans and Westerners are known to congregate.

Enjoy your trip and think "**SAFETY.**"



Reup earlier to ensure MOS eligibility

If soldiers find themselves ineligible to re-enlist within their 90-day window ... then they may find themselves without an MOS.

By Master Sgt. Jerry Smith

Brigade Retention NCOIC

The Army has had so much success with recruiting and retention of soldiers, coupled with lower than expected losses, that the Army is rapidly approaching its target number for personnel end-strength as mandated by Congress.

Therefore, there will be strict policy changes in direct support of the retention of fully qualified and deserving soldiers to maintain force alignment.

Some of the previous changes were the removal or reduction of the Selective Reenlistment Bonus in certain primary military occupational specialties, restricting reenlistment of any soldier who falls within three-months of his/her expired time in service, and limiting soldiers serving in an over strength PMOS to retraining under the Army Training Reenlistment Option.

These were all tools used in the moderate retention process.

Soldiers who are not qualified to reenlist once they enter their reenlistment window, but do become eligible later, will require a waiver from the general court martial convening authority, or first general officer, before the service member is authorized to reenlistment. This was effective as of January 14, 2003.

This is a very significant change and can affect soldiers' military career.

Furthermore, if the waiver is approved, the soldier will only be authorized the Regular Army Reenlistment Option or the

Army Training Reenlistment Option if they are currently serving in an over-strength PMOS, and not required to reenlist for an indefinite term.

Commanders are required to evaluate all soldiers affected by this change under the "Whole Person Concept" as outlined in Army Regulation 601-280, paragraph 3-7.

In an effort to moderate retention, the Army has placed certain restrictions and has suspended certain options and/or locations that soldiers in their reenlistment window may reenlist for.

For instance, mid-career soldiers, those serving on their second or subsequent term of service, reenlisting under the Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option may only reenlist for an assignment to Korea.

The Army has suspended the major command to major command option that allows a soldier to reenlist for stability and be re-assigned to another MACOM on the same installation.

The Army is still looking at other measures to assist in the moderation of the entire retention process.

The Army's focus is the retention of highly qualified soldiers that deserve the privilege to be retained on active duty.

All leaders should continue to coach and groom their young soldiers into being the best soldier they can be.

The nation has remained strong not just by the quantity of soldiers within the military but also the quality and caliber of the soldiers. This is what makes the Army what it is today.

Strongly encourage soldiers who are within 12-months of their ETS to act now on their military careers.

For more information on current and proposed policy changes to the Army's Retention Program, please contact the brigade retention office at 791-6508/8414.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

By getting a jump on reenlistment soldiers will be able to maximize on the reenlistment benefits the Army has to offer. Above Capt. Stanley Reed, 252nd Signal Company reenlisted Sgt. Elizabeth Dixon, 252nd Sig. Co. Dixon said she reenlisted for the duty stabilization and six month college option.

Here are some of the PMOSs that promotable corporals and specialist will receive an automatic promotion to sergeant if they re-class now.

02N keyboard player	Staff sergeants in the following critical skills
13M MLRS crewmember	00B diver
14R Bradley Linebacker crew member	18B SF weapons sergeant
45D self-propelled field artillery mechanic	18C SF engineer sergeant
54B chemical ops specialist	18D SF medical sergeant
82C field artillery surveyor	18E SF communication sergeant
92Y unit supply specialist	33W electronic warfare/interceptor systems repairer
96H common ground specialist	35D air traffic control equipment repairer
98C signals intelligence analyst	55D explosive ordnance disposal specialist
98J electronic intelligence interceptor	96H imagery ground station operator
98K signal collection/identification analyst	96U unmanned aerial vehicle operator
	97B counterintelligence agent
	98C signal intelligence analyst
	98J electronic intelligence inceptor/analyst
	98K signal collection/ID analyst

Contact your unit retention advisor for more information.



Photo by Pfc. Spencer Wilson

Thomas Begay, former Marine and Army Navajo Code-Talker, shakes hands with Lt. Col. John Rutt, 63rd Sig. Bn., battalion commander, during a reception at the Fort Gordon Signal Museum Nov. 14. Begay said he was proud to serve his country.

Code Talker speaks to Fort Gordon troops

By Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

93rd Signal Brigade PAO NCO

It is said that communications is the key to success and Veteran Marine and Army Navajo Code-Talker Thomas H. Begay, and his wife Nonabah, reiterated that to a crowd of more than 400 Fort Gordon soldiers at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 14 at Alexander Hall on Fort Gordon.

The Navajo Code-Talkers created 508 codes based on the Navajo language from 1942-43 that were never deciphered by the Japanese in WWII or during the Korean War in 1950.

The 93rd Signal Brigade, Equal Opportunity Office sponsored the Begays visit to Fort Gordon as a highlight for National Native American-Indian Heritage Month.

"Our company commander pulled us all together and said 'he wanted the best code book ever made' and so we wrote the book, and then he wanted us to memorize 25 of those codes a day and we did ... that

was 508 codes," said Thomas.

"... during the first 48-hours while we're landing (on Iwo Jima) and consolidating our shore positions, I had six Navajo radio networks operating around the clock," said Maj. Howard

Conner, 5th Marine Division, signal officer. "They sent and received more than 800 messages without error ... were it not for the Navajos the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima."

See Code-Talker, on page 27



Signal soldiers look through the Begays' collection of Navajo objects.

Low density Soldiers on the move

By Staff Sgt. Desiree M. Tomlinson

63rd Signal Battalion, Administration NCOIC

Soldiers assigned in low density MOS's are responsible for providing mission support to combat arms and combat support elements such as the Signal soldiers assigned to the 93rd Signal Brigade.

Signal soldiers would find it more difficult to perform their mission if it were not for the support provided by the maintainers, administrators, and logisticians. The misperception that low-density soldiers are not on the move is simply not true.

For example, let's look at the maintenance personnel who maintain our signal equipment in operational condition. They have the mission and responsibility for repairing vehicles, generators, air conditioners, radio vans, switches, and communications security equipment. These soldiers make it possible for the 93rd Sig. Bde. to move and communicate, along with the transportation specialists who provide us with fuel to keep our vehicle and generator motors running.

Furthermore, we have the administrators, who are responsible for personnel accountability, casualty reporting, and of course mail distribution.

Next, it's the administrators, who order and reorder the required supplies, equipment to the proscribed load list to ensure we can repair non-mission capable equipment and function operationally in both garrison and field environments.

Lastly, let us not forget about those great food service personnel, who provide us daily with delicious and nutritious hot meals from their mighty mobile kitchen trailers or the Lightning Warrior Café Dining Facility 13.

Furthermore, a bit of warmth and televised entertainment makes the DFAC feel like a home away from home, which provides a boost in soldier morale.

The low-density soldier is very much a part of overall mission success. For every Signal team that has qualified expert, sharp shooter or



Courtesy photo

Fuel for the troopers ... The Red Ball Express was renowned throughout Europe for getting supplies through heavily fortified enemy lines to the allied soldiers. Without the petroleum specialist the military's equipment would grind to a halt.

marksman, remember to say thanks to your fellow service support comrade in arms. To every Motor Pool, EMS, MKT, and personnel operations center that has qualified

expert, sharpshooter or marksman, and counted and counted personnel and equipment to ensure everyone is fixed, fueled, and fed ... HOOAH and great job!

Quick Reaction Force World Wide

By Capt. Stanley Reed

252nd Signal, company commander

The 252nd Signal Company, 56th Signal Battalion has a highly unique platoon known as the Quick Reaction Force.

The QRF platoon is a vital asset to the 93rd Signal Brigade providing tactical communications to the SOUTHCOM AOR in direct support of the Combatant Commander and the Army Component Commander. In fiscal year 2002, the platoon deployed to numerous countries throughout the Caribbean, Central and South America.

The primary means of communications

for members of the QRF is the Single Channel Tactical Satellite (SC TACSAT). Highly versatile, the TACSAT is the radio of choice in the AOR, providing both data and voice communications reliably to customers. The platoon also trains and uses High Frequency (HF) Radios, Single Channel Ground Airborne Radio Systems (SINCGARS), Communication Security devices, and incorporates Information Technology using laptops, data faxes, automated data controllers, satellite phones, and email.

When the QRF platoon is not deployed on missions they're still actively employed supporting the 93rd Sig. Bde. Situational Training Exercises and their

own training known as the "Single Channel Rodeo."

The Single Channel Rodeo is a weeklong exercise of Troop Leading Procedures, Site Operations, and Equipment set up which is evaluated to determine soldier proficiency on equipment and common soldier tasks incorporated into the exercise.

The benefits that come out of these training evaluations afford teams the opportunity to train and certify in accordance with Army Training and Evaluation Program standards augmented with time standards.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Chap. (Col.) Rees Stevens, speaks to post chaplains and chaplain assistants at the Fort Gordon Installation Chapel during Chaplains Call.

By Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
PAO NCO

The Network Enterprise Technology Command Chaplain visited with 93rd Signal Brigade soldiers at Fort Gordon to get an overview of the soldier's morale and spirit January 15-16.

Combat-ready Chaplains

Love, Discipline will take care of us all

It was an opportunity to get out of the office and to speak up-close and personal with the soldiers throughout the military, said Chap. (Col.) Rees R. Stevens, command chaplain.

"It's a chance to talk with other chaplains and visit with the soldiers at their work stations," He said. "You have to get out of the office and go to motor pool to see the soldiers engaged at their jobs and doing it really well—it's very exciting and stimulating."

With three combat jumps with the 82nd Airborne Division, Stevens could be one of the most deployed chaplain in the Army.

"I was with the Special Forces for Joint Task Force Bravo for Honduras in 88', Panama in 89', and Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 90'," Stevens said.

Before the jump into Panama the soldiers apprehensively approached Stevens on what to expect from the deployment.

"Before deploying to Panama I was walking around the personnel holding area, and my combat patch might as well have been neon," said Stevens. "Generally

the soldiers were concerned about being able to do their job—not letting their buddies down."

"I told them 'remember everyone is counting on you and God has given you the ability—the love—to take care of each other,'" he said.

The soldiers deployed and fought admirably. Soldiers' pre-deployment apprehension are what Stevens calls "controlled caution."

"Paratroopers are never afraid right," he said with a smile. "It's your mind telling you body that you are about to do an unnatural act, and there really isn't anything natural about picking up a weapon and putting yourself in harms way. Discipline from a theological sense is a form of love," Stevens said.

"The importance of discipline is that we take care of each other, and that form of discipline will bring a lot of people back," he said.

"There are a lot of people seen and unseen that are counting on us to do our jobs and with a signal unit, a great bulk of the Army is counting on you," said Stevens.

A Mouse Story

A modern day parable - Let us learn to lean on God and one another

Author Unknown

A mouse looked through a crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife opening a package.

What food might it contain?

He was aghast to discover that it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning, "There is a mouse trap in the house, there is a mouse trap in the house."

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell you this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mouse trap in the house."

"I am so very sorry Mr. Mouse," sympathized the pig, "but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured that you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned and the cow said, "Like wow, Mr. Mouse, a mousetrap. I am in grave danger. Duh?" So the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected to face the farmer's mouse-trap alone. That very night a sound was heard throughout the house, like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught.



In the darkness, she did not see that it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital. She returned home with a fever.

Now everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient.

His wife's sickness continued so that friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well. She died, and so many people came for her funeral the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide meat for all of them to eat.

So the next time you hear that someone is facing a problem and think that it does not concern you, remember that when the least of us is threatened, we are all at risk. In the book of Genesis, Cain said about Able his brother to our God "Am I my Brother's keeper?" "We are all involved in the "spiritual warfare." We must all have a keen eye out one for another and be willing to make that extra care and encouragement to each other.

**Lightning Warriors
take care of their own!!**



Sgt. Travonne Brooks C Co., 63rd Sig. Bn., Light Wheel mechanic, makes last minute adjustments to a humvee during the Warfighter Exercise. Travonne has since PCSed to Fort Haachuca, Ariz.

I Corps Warfighter Exercise

By Pfc. Spencer Wilson
63rd Signal Battalion, PA Rep

Charlie Co., 63rd Signal Battalion deployed to Ft. Lewis, Washington, to participate another I Corps Warfighter Exercise from October 15 to November 6.

The 142nd Signal Brigade, a reserve

unit from Alabama, tasked C Co. to provide a Single Shelter Switch, a TSC-93C (235th Co.), and a cable team.

Charlie Co. served as the backbone for the 29th Signal Battalion's network, which supports all of the players in the actual Warfighter.

The SSS supported more than 170 local subscribers while maintaining seven other links within the network. One TACSAT link reached to Wahiawa, Hawaii, pulling NIPR and SIPR services into the network.

Throughout the exercise, several of the SSS soldiers were recognized with general officer coins and Army Achievement Medals. Sgt. Kim Payne, C Co. 63rd Sig. Bn. received an Army Commendation

Medal for his hard work throughout the exercise.

The TSC-93C team from 235th Signal Company directly supported the I Corps Commander throughout the exercise. They maintained a 99-percent availability rate throughout the exercise, earning each member of the three-man team an Army Achievement Medal and coins from the 29th Signal Battalion.

The cable team was responsible for supporting all of the network controllers for the exercise. Their area of operation encompassed a half square mile of 15 buildings and over 1000 users. The cable team manned a 24-hour tactical phone help-desk throughout the exercise. They received recognition in the form of Army Achievement Medals and generals' coins, to include the I Corps Commander's coin.

I Corps is the exercise controller and higher command for this demanding and challenging exercise. Organic communications assets are combined with Warfighter simulation computer networks to provide a realistic test of the combat readiness of the command staffs within the division. The exercise uses both data and radio networks to include C2WAN (secret), Army Information Systems, SIPRNet (Secret), and NIPRNet (Unclass).

The 63rd Sig. Bn. personnel involved in the exercise include: Pfc. Kun Isaac, Pfc. Tommy Turner, Pfc. Paul Perry, Pfc. Brian Marney, Spc. Randy Cottengain, Spc. Robert Little, Spc. David Tolliver, Spc. Dale Hollis, Sgt. Daniel Wright, Sgt. Kim Payne, Sgt. Jason Schrader, Sgt. Luther Windley, Sgt. Travonne Brooks, Staff Sgt. Charles Brazelton, Staff Sgt. Michael Barekman, Staff Sgt. Andrew Ludwick, and 2nd Lt. Angela Kreh.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Angela Kreh

Staff Sgt. Andrew Ludwick, C Co. 63rd Sig. Bn., radio van operator, performs system checks on his equipment.

New state of the art 93rd Sig motor pool

By Pfc. Spencer A. Wilson

A Co. 63rd Signal Battalion, PA Rep

Several soldiers and civilians were on hand for the 93rd Signal Brigade groundbreaking ceremony at the 93rd Sig. Bde's S-4 warehouse in preparation for a new state-of-the-art vehicle maintenance facility, or motor pool.

Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks, Commanding General U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, said she knows how hard it is to work in substandard conditions. Hicks talked about being a company commander and how her unit's motor pool had gravel on the ground and buildings that barely stayed together.

"I was able to stay and see the new facilities built and was able to occupy them," said Hicks. "It's a wonderful thing and makes a huge difference to the soldiers."

The new motor pool has been in the planning stage for more than five years. It is the first brigade sized motor pool at Fort Gordon.

Hicks acknowledged that both the 63rd and 67th Signal Battalion's motor pools are currently housed in substandard facilities.

The 67th Sig. Bn. motor pool buildings are composed of World War II era wood and Vietnam era concrete. Some of the soldiers joke about picking up the fallen siding from around the building after morning physical training as part of their area beautification detail.

The 63rd Sig. Bn. motor pool has not weathered well either. Their motor pool's operation relies on tents and trailers located across the street. While most of the older equipment works fine, the soldiers have to take an extra measure to safe guard the buildings from high wind.

Since the buildings were built so long ago they can't accommodate some of the modern tactical vehicles and equipment. For instance the five-ton military transportation vehicle truck cannot fit through the maintenance doors.

"The planning, developing and now construction has been a great team effort", said Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander. "The brigade is greatly appreciative for the role of the community. Although I will not be here to see this new facility occupied I am sure the soldiers will benefit from everyone's hard work."

As a Forces Command unit stationed on a Training and Doctrine Command post the 93rd Sig. Bde. faced the challenge of receiving authorizations from two major commands to allow this groundbreaking to commence.



The construction of the new state-of-the-art motor pool commences.

And with the support of several individuals, both MACOMs agreed with ease, but the 93rd Signal Brigade also had the full support of its congressional leaders.



Photo by Pfc Spencer Wilson

Farewell to Thee ... Brig. Janet Hicks gives Earl Hothem, Fort Gordon Corp of Engineers, a Commander's Coin of Excellence and a Letter of Appreciation. Hothem, who helped plan the new 93rd Sig. Bde. motor pool, is scheduled to retire after 27 years of service.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

The Lightning Warrior DFAC officer 1st Lt. Robert Waddinton, HHC 93rd Signal Brigade (left) talks with retired Sgt. Maj. Fredrick Jackson, TRADOC, food program advisor during the Phillip A. Connelly evaluators visit.



Photo by Pfc. Spencer Wilson

Veteran Navajo Code-Talker Thomas Begay takes a moment of reflection beside The Colors at the Fort Gordon Signal Museum.

Command Priorities

To achieve the Vision, there are three positive priorities to strive for and three negatives to avoid

...

Positive Priorities

- Maintaining battle focus, Mission readiness
- Taking care of soldiers and families
- Building esprit

Negatives to avoid

- Fatalities (accidents, suicides, casualties)
- Child and family abuse
- Breaches in ethics and morality

Servicemembers required to be vaccinated

By Kevin Larson
FORSCOM News Service

With the threat of smallpox being used as a bio-weapon against our military forces, the commander-in-chief, Pres. George W. Bush, in December ordered all Department of Defense military personnel to line up and get a smallpox vaccination.

Forces Command soldiers might start lining up as early as mid-January for their mandatory shots, according to the FORSCOM Surgeon. Just like the anthrax vaccine, smallpox will be mandatory because of force health protection issues.

"Everybody reads the papers, everybody watches CNN," Col. Phil Stikes, FORSCOM preventive medicine officer, said. "It's pretty obvious why we need it. We think potential enemies might have it."

More detailed implementation details will be worked out in the coming weeks.

Soldiers already deployed around the world in support of current operations will also be vaccinated, Stikes said.

"We're prepared to ship vaccine wherever, whenever," he said.

A limited number of DoD civilians who have been designated emergency essential will be asked to get a smallpox vaccination.

If you've been vaccinated before, though, and think you're good to go, you're not.

Those who have been vaccinated for smallpox in the past will need to get a new shot. The vaccination provides protection for three to five years, according to Stikes.

"Protection wanes over the years," he said.

The vaccine contains a live virus, but it is not smallpox. Instead, the vaccine is made from another pox virus, one closely related to smallpox.

But because the vaccine is made from a live, actively growing virus, there are certain key points to remember, Stikes said.

"Key points to remember after being

vaccinated are don't touch the spot where the needle was stuck and don't let other people touch it," he said. "If the vaccination spot does get touched, wash your hands right away."

Touching the vaccination site can cause the vaccine to not take or spread the pox used in the vaccine to other areas of the body, according to Stikes. That can cause serious problems, especially near eyes or other moist areas of the body.

The vaccination site will be bandaged



Photo courtesy of the World Health Organization

A child with smallpox eruptions on his arm and palm. The smallpox lesions, or pustules, will eventually form scabs that will fall off leaving marks on the skin. The patient is contagious to others until all of the scabs have fallen off (1969).

following the shot but the bandage can be taken off when the bleeding stops, Stikes said. Disposing the bandage is easy. Just put it in a plastic bag with some bleach and throw it away.

When in close contact with others, though, it is best to keep a bandage over the vaccination site, Stikes said. It's also okay to do PT after being vaccinated, just make sure you bring your own towels for showering. That towel and any other clothes that touch the vaccination site will then have to be washed in hot water with soap and bleach.

People with compromised immune systems, who have had eczema or atopic dermatitis, have other skin conditions that have not yet cleared up and who are pregnant or breastfeeding should not get the smallpox vaccination, Stikes said. Also, if you live with anyone who meets those conditions you should not get vaccinated.

If soldiers meet these medical exclusions and do not get the smallpox vaccination, they are still deployable, Stikes said. If there were a smallpox outbreak, however, medically excluded soldiers would have to roll up their sleeves and take the shot.

"In the event of a smallpox outbreak, their vaccination status would be reevaluated," Stikes said.

For soldiers who do not meet the exclusion criteria, refusal is not an option.

See Vaccination, on page 26

Smallpox, highly contagious viral disease that is often fatal. The disease is chiefly characterized by a skin rash that develops on the face, chest, back, and limbs. Over the course of a week the rash develops into pustular (pus-filled) pimples resembling boils. In extreme cases the pustular pimples run together—usually an indication of a fatal infection.

Death may result from a secondary bacterial infection of the pustules, from cell damage caused by the viral infection, or from heart attack or shock.

In the latter stages of nonfatal cases, smallpox pustules become crusted, often leaving the survivor with permanent, pitted scars.

Keeping a Dream Alive

King: 'A man can't climb on your back unless it's bent'

By Staff Sgt.
Kelly McCargo
PAO NCO

The audience of more than 400 soldiers and civilians looked at the speaker standing by the podium in earnest.

"Do you think I want to be called a boy at 64," said the Rev. Willie M Bolden.

The audience erupted in a thunderous applause as Bolden spoke out against racism—both past and present—during the Annual Commemorative Luncheon honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Fort Gordon Club January 15.

"It's ironic that I am standing here January 15th, 2003—the actual date of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday," said Bolden, the keynote speaker. "It's ironic that the same problems we had back then are the same problems we have today—so I can't quite celebrate yet."

"Too many people are going to bed hungry at night, so I can't quite celebrate yet," he said. "Too many African Americans are dropping out of high school, so I can't quite

celebrate yet. Too many of our young high school graduates can't score a thousand on their SAT, so I can't quite celebrate yet."

"I can't celebrate yet, but I can act! And I intend to work on that with every ounce of my strength," said Bolden.

Martin Luther King's birthday was a day to pause and reflect on the betterment of all races and women, who make up American people and thus the nation, said Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks, Commanding General U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon.

"O' Father we're still striving for human rights and fighting for what is good and right in this world," said Chap. (Maj.) William Austin, Post Chapel, as he lead the audience in prayer.

"Be mindful of why we're here celebrating the memory of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King," said Sgt. 1st Class Marcus Oliver, Advanced NCO Course small group leader, before he sang to the audience.

Prior to the American Civil Rights Movement it was out of the question for African-Americans to attempt to swim at the local all-white beach, Bolden said.

Hundreds of racially prejudiced peoples from various counties would flock to the beach to try to drown Afro-



Photo by Charles Moore/Black Star

King at a civil rights rally on the steps of the state capitol in Montgomery, Alabama in 1960.

Americans in the water, Bolden said.

Furthermore, racists would put alligators in the hotel pool to keep blacks from swimming there, Bolden said.

Dr. King came into my nine-ball pool hall one day and pulled a group of young black men aside, said Bolden. He said to me, "let me talk to you all for just a minute."

"Why are you young men here beating each other up for dimes when you know the man you want is six blocks away in City Hall."

Dr. King said to us, "Look

at me; a man can't climb on your back unless it's bent."

Bolden said he was thoroughly impressed with Dr. King and from there committed his life to fighting racial segregation throughout the nation.

The luncheon was organized by the Greater Augusta Chapter of Blacks in Government and the Fort Gordon Equal Opportunity Office to encourage the Fort Gordon community to continue Martin Luther King's vision of racial equality.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Rev. Willie M Bolden, a Georgia native, remains active in the fight for equal rights for Americans.

Signal Chaplain answers God's call

By ANNE O'CONNOR

Preston Freelance Writer
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The Rev. Thom Davies, a native of Ellaville, wears many symbolic hats, as all pastors do.

In his case, though, he also wears a literal one — that of a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. Since January, Davies has been on active duty as a chaplain at 93rd Signal Brigade at Fort Gordon, Ga.

While pastoring Ellaville United Methodist Church and Corinth United Methodist Church, Davies was called to active duty in response to America's war on terrorism. He and his wife, Diane, received word just before Christmas 2001 that he would report for duty in January.

"We didn't even tell our parents until after Christmas," said Mrs. Davies. The congregations were given the news on the first Sunday in January. The Pastor-Parish Relations committee then met with the couple and the Rev. Lowery Brantley, Americus district superintendent, to decide what to do.



Army chaplains are responsible for the spiritual guidance of soldiers deployed throughout the world.

"It was the thing to do, to keep him as our pastor," said Wayne Morrow, Jr., lay leader of Ellaville UMC. "We had somebody who really cared, and the unanimous vote of the PPR of the charge was that we hold his position for him. Anyway, even without a shepherd, God is in control."

"When we all got together, we didn't really know what to do. But we have chosen to leave everything the same. We know Thom is only a phone call away," said Elaine Larkin, lay leader of Corinth UMC.

So Chap. Davies is still the pastor of his flock. His wife still lives in the parsonage, and his salary is unchanged. But has it really been that easy to live out this commitment?

Not really, Morrow said, and the longer it goes on, the harder it is. But still, he believes God had prepared the congregations for what was coming.

"Before Thom came, we were without a pastor for six months, and I think that was God's way of preparing us," he said. "I'm not sure the vote would have been the same if God had not prepared us for what was coming."

Larkin shared a letter she had written to Rep. Sanford Bishop and Sen. George Hooks in which she spoke of the pride her church feels in their pastor.

"We do not know how long he will be gone and are anxious for him to return full-time," she wrote. "Him, his wife, and two congregations have all sacrificed in the name of God and for our country."

Chaplain Davies said that his service is not as "radical" as that of chaplains in combat, but his job is vital to soldiers and their families. Military service puts strains on marriages, and part of his duties

includes briefings with military families as well as ongoing counseling.

"Within 24-26 hours of a mobilization or demobilization, we have briefings. We also have family readiness groups," he said. "These groups offer help in all kinds of ways—housing, medical care, any needs the family may have while the soldier is away. Also, 'command-directed

counseling" may be mandatory in situations such as a soldier not showing up for duty.

Also, he deals with the hazards that come with being a soldier.

"Accidents, suicide attempts, soldiers killed," said Chap. Davies. "These are some of the things we deal with." In addition, he conducts worship services and is responsible for seeing that each soldier is provided with "free exercise of religion." This is not always as simple as holding an interdenominational worship service.

"My boss is Jewish. His wife is Catholic. I am a United Methodist. How am I going to explain to him what it means to be an Apostolic Pentecostal charismatic Christian?"

From there, it gets really complicated.

"We have about 1,500 families to minister to," he said. "We have Jewish, Muslim, every garden-variety of Christian you can name, etc. Every time we have a cer-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Thom Davies says a prayer before the brigade 93rd Sig. Bdes Command Information Brief at Alexander Hall on October 22, 2002.

emony, and I have to pray, I have to be aware of that."

Back at home, Mrs. Davies and the congregations "soldier on" in a different way. Dr. Aubrey Alsobrook of Americus, a retired United Methodist pastor who was also a district superintendent, has been a valuable resource to the two churches while their pastor is away. He has frequently supplied the pulpit.

"I've seen a mood of greater readiness and patriotism since the enemy struck at home last year," said Alsobrook. "The possibility of another 9-11 is always here."

Despite the separations and logistical challenges of Chap. Davies's active service, Alsobrook sees opportunities for service.

"When I was on the district," he said, "I asked another DS what was the most important thing for a DS. He said, 'A greater appreciation for the laity.'"

See Chaplain, on page 24

518th TIN Co: A Legacy of History

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
PAO NCO

The 518th TIN Co. was initially formed on paper in October 1933 as the 1st Radio Intelligence Co. however the company didn't receive soldiers until November 1938 in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Three years later the unit moved to Fort Meade, Md., where it was re-designated the 121st Signal Radio Intelligence Co.

The unit distinguished itself in Iceland in 1942 during World War II. It further went on to support operations in England, France and Belgium until 1945. Following World War II, the unit became one of many to be deactivated at Camp Patrick Henry, Va., in January 1946.

The unit was recognized for its valorous service during WWII with the Rhineland and Central Europe campaign streamers and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

The unit was reactivated and re-designated the 518th TIN three years later with the mission to be a Signal Radio Relay Company. Several months later the unit was moved to Camp Gordon, Ga.

During the onset of the Korean War, the 518th TIN relocated to Japan before

shipping off to Korea where after four years it distinguished itself on numerous occasions in the Korean area of operations. This time the unit was recognized with nine additional campaign streamers, another Meritorious Unit Commendation and two Republic of Korea Presidential Citations.

The unit remained in Korea until March 1955. After another inactivation and activation ceremony the unit was formed once again in Fort Lee, Va., until October 1961 where it was deactivated in Germany.

The 518th TIN was activated a year later at Fort Gordon, Ga., until 1964 where it was moved to Fort Bragg, N.C. for 15 months

then shipped to South Vietnam.

After six years of distinguished service during the Vietnam War the 518th TIN

received more campaign streamers and three additional Meritorious Unit Citations and inactivated in December 1971.

The 518th TIN was activated in May 1973 in Germany where it operated for 20 years. It was deactivated once again in September 1993.

The 518th TIN has been inactive until now where it becomes a member of the 93rd Signal Brigade at Fort Gordon, Ga.

The 518th TIN is equipped with the world's most

sophisticated state-of-the-art satellite communications technology.



Taking Command ... Capt. Todd Svacina, 518th TIN Co., company commander receives the guidon from Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander.

518th TIN Co. activation ceremony at Fort Gordon

By Staff Sgt.
Kelly McCargo
PAO NCO

More than 100 soldiers and civilians attended the 518th Tactical Installation and Network Company activation ceremony at 8 a.m. on Barton Field October 16.

The 518th TIN will fulfill a crucial 93rd Sig. Bde. requirement that provides a rapidly deployable unit that can immediately install Satellite Communications, automations, video teleconferencing, and official mail distribution support.

The equipment, technology

and training of the 518th TIN Co. is the culmination of several years of research and findings from Operations Desert Storm/Shield and Joint Endeavors.

"The 518th is part of an ever-changing signal mission with the current mindset to 'move information, not people.' This mandates a highly mobile, modular and flexible organization capable of providing early entry information technology," said Maj. Bruce Holland, 56th Signal Battalion, executive officer.

"You see a one-of-a kind unit—It is a multi-component

company ... and there is no other unit in the Army with their extraordinary capabilities for strategic installation of tower, data, video and wire systems," said Col. Daniel Gerstein,

93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander. "The unit provides rapid Global Information Grid installation, re-installation and restoral. Their mission statement speaks volumes about their mission and its significance."

"As a whole the soldiers assigned to this command are the most professional that I

"There is no other unit in the Army with the 518th's extraordinary capabilities ..."

Col. Daniel Gerstein

have encountered in my army career," said Capt. Todd Svacina, 518th TIN Co., company commander.

"Their dedica-

tion to the activation of this company has been remarkable. The First Sergeant, Allen Cliff, and I are proud to be a part of the 518th and are committed to the Army's mission."



Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks (upper left) U.S. Army Signal School, commander, joined Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Signal Brigade, brigade commander (top ninth from left side) and the Augusta in Army Boots participants for their graduation photo.

Augusta in Army Boots

Teachers, bankers get in firefight

Story and photos by
Pfc. Joseph P. Strong
A Co. 67th Signal Battalion

The 93rd Signal Brigade was host for the Augusta in Army Boots event during its December Situational Training Exercise.

Eleven civilian participants arrived at Lightning Warrior Café dining facility 13 December 11th for a Lightning Warrior Breakfast.

Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander, greeted everyone as they waited in the chow line and began to mentally prepare themselves for a long 24 hours.

These few individuals were to be trained on basic platoon leader skills during a 24-hour period. They will be inducted and pinned by Gerstein as Honorary Lieutenants after successfully completing their training exercise.

Breakfast began at 8 a.m. and was followed by a small introduction.

Professions ranged from employment with Savannah River Site, Jefferson Energy, Augusta Aviation Commission,

Augusta Lynx, and various other careers. Introductions were quickly followed by a series of briefing, covering Fort Gordon the Installation, the 93rd responsibilities, and safety briefing.

Pat Bucholtz, Garrison Protocol Liaison, began the briefing with a look into garrison lifestyle as a signal soldier.

A majority of the Lightning Warrior forces do not reside on post, and Bucholtz showed how the soldiers fit into the everyday Augusta Community. A view on barracks life and housing with Family and Financial relations were also discussed. Ashley Goodrum, 93rd Signal Bde., brigade safety officer, pointed out the importance of performing Personal Risk Assessments. He stated, in a humorous manner that he often asked himself "What do I need to be careful of on a day to day basis?"

Gerstein followed up with a synopsis of a mission of a signal unit.

Tasks such as Northern/

Southern Command, Worldwide Deployment Readiness, and National Security Strategy.

"It's very important in our tasks as soldiers to keep and bring Democracy to other nations, as well as keep organized peace operations with our foreign allies," he said.

He also pointed out a few of the differences between civilian and military employment.



Lt. Col. James Blackmon, 93rd Sig. Bde., deputy commander explains the 93rd Signal Corps concept to the AIAB participants.



An AIAB participant gets his battle dress uniform.

"I can't easily say who my boss is, because they all have competing interests," said Gerstein while showing the different financial and mission needs he is often forced to compromise with.

"It gets quite complicated."

As a commander of such a large force, he pointed out a few of his priorities that come into play when making decisions about the brigade. Priorities like mission focus, family support, and overall morale. He also talked about some of his major confrontations dealing with soldiers, such as fatalities or injuries, family abuse, and personal ethics of the soldiers.

Concluding the briefing Gerstein said, "I tell my soldiers, I have to be able to depend on what you say, and you have to be able to depend on what I say."

At 9:30 a.m., the participants reported to Headquarters Co. 93rd Sig. Bde. to receive their basic military equipment issue. There were a few small fitting problems, but all of them were quickly handled and corrected. Some of the individuals had problems outfitting their equipment, such as Kevlar helmets, Load Bearing Equipment belts, and rucksacks. After receiving and properly fitting into all of their equipment, they were issued an

M16A2 automatic rifle and received a safety briefing on the weapon from Staff Sgt. Reginald Reliford, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde., training NCO.

Shortly after a few small laughs and jokes about the quick transformation in appearance from civilian to soldier, they were transported to Cruz Field for on-site training.

At training area 16, Gerstein lead the small unit into a simulated patrol around the site. Before their departure, he demonstrated training exercises, like proper marching intervals with weapons at the ready, and how to react to an attack. They all did an exceptional job maintaining intervals until an opposition forces team on a perimeter hill attacked them.

A sudden hit of small artillery was a quick reminder to the AIAB personnel just how important training is for a U.S. Army Soldier. A slow but eventual reaction happened as the civilians followed Gerstein's lead and they fell to the ground firing into the wood line.

Helen Blocker-Adams, with Augusta/Richmond County Small Business Incubator, said it was pretty cool, but she stated that she, "...only saw one of them."

After the attack, a standard After Action Review was done on the simulated

situation. The next steps after an attack were discussed. Calling in casualty reports, enemy description, and position of attacking force were all mentioned. After the AAR, they all continued their march to Cruz Field with no further incident.

Arriving at Cruz Field they piled in the Brigade System Control Center for an OPORD briefing, where Gerstein explained the network layout, qualification standards of signal teams, and developing risk assessments, which must be done for every Situational Training Exercise. A lot of questions were asked during the briefing which really showed the interest and involvement from the newly, and roughly trained soldiers. This interest in the Signal Network continued as they received a tour of the Army Logistics Center (ALOC) tent and SYSCON tent.

At 1 p.m. after the quick tour, they linked up with their respective sponsor Lieutenants and were escorted to their new platoon-training site. Rick Toole, of W.R. Toole Engineers, assigned to 1st Lt. Sexton, HHC 63rd Sig. Bn., said he was having a lot of fun so far, but "...definitely wouldn't want to do this during the summer."

**Be a part of the
Lightning Warrior
Team and
participate in the
next
Augusta in Army
Boots in April!!**



The OPFOR team joins Col. Daniel Gerstein (far right) as he gives the AIAB group an after action review of the previous firefight.

Winter 2002-2003

56th SIG Army-Ten Miler Team shows out

By 1st Lt.
Gilberto "Gilby" Rolon
56th Signal Battalion, S-4

After almost two years of waiting, soldiers from the 56th Signal Battalion had the opportunity to represent United States Army South (USARSO) in the 18th annual Army Ten-Miler competition in Washington, DC, October 20.

The Fort Buchanan Sport Center held a series of try-outs from early spring into the summer to select the team of runners who would represent the installation's Major Command (USARSO).

On Sunday morning, before sunrise, against all odds, under the highest security measures and equipped with tons of determination, more than 18,000 runners gathered at the Pentagon behind the start line, keeping up the Army Ten-Miler tradition of excellence. Five hundred volunteers and committee members were there taking care of the behind-the-scenes details.

The Ten-Miler was cancelled last year, due to the high



Courtesy photo

The 56th Sig. Bn. Army Ten-Miler team shows out for the unit, despite rumors of another cancellation.

security measures after the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The event cancellation was announced only seven days before the run.

The cancellation was terrible news for last year's team members, who had

trained hard during the months leading up to the race. One year later, the event was threatened by a series of sniper shootings occurring on the D.C. area. Fear of a possible cancellation rose again among runners.

The event was more than a road race around the nation's capital.

Ten-Miler members had the opportunity to visit the D.C. monuments, and see old colleagues and friends from all over the world. The race itself was an emotional potpourri as last year's tragedies came to mind.

First Sgt. Troy Miller, Headquarters Detachment, 56th Sig. Bn., and 1st Lt. Gilberto Rolon, 56th Sig. Bn., battalion S-4, were two runners of the seven member Fort Buchanan-USARSO team. Both runners had made last year's team as well.

"The Fort Buchanan Team who proudly represented us

during this year's 18th edition, placed 21st in the Military Team Male Open Category. It's also good to mention that more than 18,000 runners participated in the race," said Carlos Algarin, Fort Buchanan, sports specialist.

The team coach, retired Sgt 1st Class Alberto Orellana, 56th Signal Battalion, administrative services section, a seven-time Ten-Miler veteran, offered his knowledge and off duty time to mentor the team. The Team's average time was 65 minutes.

The drum beats and the spectators' cheers accompanied the runners as the gun went off and runners started off on the scenic, patriotic route. After crossing the finish line, the celebration started as a live band played rock themes. Runners enjoyed refreshments and camaraderie, as they started making plans for October, 4, 2003 Army Ten-Miler.



Courtesy photo

More than 18,000 runners participating in the race take off after the gun fires.

Boshear's Sky Fest

Capt. Jeremiah Jette

63rd Signal Battalion

On a warm fall weekend the stage was set for magic.

The people were enjoying themselves with food and activities but were waiting for the big event.

The sense of anticipation grew to a fever pitch with a roar overhead and cheers from the crowd, the United States Navy Blue Angels flew by

with the precision and accuracy that are their trademarks.

The annual Boshear's Sky Fest took place on September 28-29 at the Augusta Regional Airport at Bush Field. The show brought in aerial daredevils, parachutists, military jets and tractor trailer trucks powered by jet engines to entertain and delight nearly 60,000 visitors.

Along with the amazing acrobatic performance, the

show also exhibits vintage airplanes, jet simulators, and new to this year's show, perhaps the most exciting exhibit of all, a real operational display of the 93rd Signal Brigade's Heavy Communications Package.

Soldiers from Bravo Company, 63d Signal Battalion, set up the active display in order to demonstrate to the public the capabilities that the US Army provides to both the soldiers and commanders in a deployed theater of war.

The Heavy Communications Package, which can provide voice, data and video-teleconference assets to any location world-wide, provided the air show attendees much amazement and hands-on experience with our signal equipment.

The company operations tent with the tracking boards, data package and boot-walled SSS displayed the business end of the signal operations and how we work at keeping the telephones ringing.

A morale, welfare and recreation tent was also set up

where the people could call each other on the Digital Non-Secure Voice Terminals (DNVT), surf the internet over the Non-Secure IP (NIPR) network, and talk to each other over a locally set up VTC network.

The AN/TSC-93 multi-channel satellite terminal, providing our communications reach back to the Theater Network Operations and Security Center-South (TNOSC-S) at Fort Gordon, was set up and displayed. One of the biggest attractions on site, though, was the M998 command Humvee.

The public was able to sit inside and operate the SINCGAR FM radio and speak to soldiers working in the Operations tent.

By the final fly-by, Sunday afternoon, thousands of visitors had viewed the 93rd Sig. Bde. site, used the equipment and talked with 93d Sig. Bde. soldiers, furthering the good standing and professional image of the U.S. Army in the Augusta community.



Courtesy photo

U.S. Navy Blue Angels performed for the Augusta public.

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE ON TO HIGHER ORDER TASKS

Maj. Dawn Ross

67th Sig. Bn., executive officer

Switch 40, E33, and D13 qualified EXPERT during the sixth Brigade Situational Training Exercise and as promised, moved on to conduct training on higher order tasks.

Soldiers from the 67th Signal Battalion and TACON elements of 63rd Signal Battalion expanded their training with a road march of 28 tactical vehicles over 75-miles to enlarge the area network coverage. This mission exercised our deploy ability as well as battle staff coordination at all levels, when the brigade deployed 61 soldiers with A/67th's Area Node and two small extension switches.

"I am just glad to get off of Fort

Gordon and test the reliability of our equipment and our soldiers," stated Capt. Eric Strom, the A Co. 67th Sig. Bn., company commander.

At the company level, the leaders ensured many execution details were coordinated. Tasks they performed ranged from coordination with supporting units to ensuring 100-percent accountability of equipment and personnel for deployment, conducting a relief-in-place with C Co. 67th Sig. Bn., to provide seamless communications to the BATCON and ALOC, to the many pre-combat inspection checks required to successfully deploy without major incident.

Sgt. 1st Class Gloria Mitchell, A Co., 67th Sig. Bn., area node platoon sergeant, comments that upon receipt of the change of mission and a mission brief, a pep talk quickly rallied the troops to prepare for deployment with 100-percent effort overcoming the normal fatigue experienced in three-days of high OPTEMPO

training.

The battalion and brigade battle staff worked just as hard coordinating with local communities in preparation for the 75-mile road march, conducting site recons, and ensuring top-quality food, fuel, and logistical support was provided for the mission.

After three days of network installation and STX certification, the soldiers received their change of mission, de-installed, and prepared for movement. The soldiers performed well, deploying successfully 11 hours after mission receipt. Their hard work and successful deployment once again validates their operational readiness.

The 67th Sig. Bn., TACON elements, and the brigade/battalion battle staffs concluded a tough and vigorous exercise with great satisfaction and success. We know we are ready to support Homeland Defense Operations should our nation call upon us.

Winter 2002-2003

Fort Gordon Octoberfest

one toast to everybody feeling good

Story and photos by
**Staff Sgt. Kelly
McCargo**
PAO NCO

Several cold foamy mugs of German *bier* and American cola were raised in appreciation during the Octoberfest at Fort Gordon's Freedom Park October 25-26.

Soldiers, friends and families turned out to experience a small, but welcomed, taste of German culture.

"We came today to get out of the barracks," said Sgt. 1st Class LeRoy Lucero, 1st Special Forces Group, 2nd Battalion. "But we certainly like the German beverages!"

Lucero and his friends Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Ross, 1st Squadron 227th Aviation, Fort Hood, Texas, and Sgt. 1st Class Scott Sherwood, 269th Signal Co., Fort Huachuca, Ariz., are attending the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course at Fort Gordon.

Seven soldiers from the

434th Army Signal Band entertained patrons with select American swing, rock and dance music, and a German Band played traditional German fest music as the patrons danced the day away.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation vendors sold bratwurst, hamburgers, wiener-schnitzel sandwiches and hotdogs.

Some parents said the fest was a good opportunity to expose their children to German culture.

"I've been to Germany and enjoyed it, but my kids haven't," said Sgt. 1st Class Cynthia Blackwell, Headquarters Co., A Detachment, 442nd Sig. Bn. "I thought it would be a good experience for my children to see some German culture today."

Aside from the Festival Tent *mit* tradition German music, the fest offered golf-putting contests, a rock-climbing wall, kids and adult Bingo tents, pie-eating contests, and a Department of Public Works wildlife exhibit.



Sgt. Rippy, C Co., 67th Signal Battalion, radio operator NCO, playing with his daughter, said the Fort Gordon Octoberfest reminded him of how much he enjoyed his time stationed in Germany.

"There were lots of inflatable gyms and events for the children to play on," said German Lt. Col. Rainer Schwiebert, German Army Liaison at Fort Gordon. "It was a lot of fun and the weather was very good."

For some, the fest had a deeper impact.

"I haven't been home in four-years ... and I am very homesick," said Angela Rozier, a native of Munich, Germany. "I worked all day and decided to stop by the Octoberfest."

"My younger daughter heard the German music playing and she was very surprised—she asked me 'daddy what's that?'" said

Schwiebert with a laugh. "The people at the MWR, and the garrison personnel, put a lot of work into the Octoberfest."

The Octoberfest was designed to bring people together to enjoy German food, music and drinks, and on this night several people said that the fest did just that.

So when the German Band leader frequently raised his mug to toast, strangers embraced one another and raised their mugs in suit and toasted—"ein prosit, ein prosit der gemuetlichkeit."

The toast roughly translates to "one toast, one toast, to everybody feeling good."

Remember, Friends don't let friends drive drunk!



The German Band played tradition German music to add to the atmosphere.

Candidate Schools

The essence of professional development

Story and photos by Staff Sgt.
Kelly McCargo

PAO NCO

Professional Development is the essence of the Army.

Soldiers can take advantage of a broad range of service select schools for career enhancement.

It's a process that often requires a reasonable amount of paperwork but the end results can be very rewarding.

For two Lightning Warrior Non-Commissioned Officers, the end results have been just that.

Sgt. Lisa Halvorson, A Co. 63rd Signal Battalion, radio NCO and Sgt. Kimberly Perkins, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 93rd Signal Brigade, information systems analyst, were selected by the Department of the Army to attend the Army's Officer and Warrant Officer Candidate Schools respectively.

"I'm excited and nervous," said Perkins. "From what I've heard it's an intense school, and I'm making a big leap."

Perkins, an Orlando, Fla. native, has been in the Army for four-years. She is scheduled to attend the WOCS at Fort Rucker, Ala., sometime this year.

"It's going to be a physically challenging course, but I want to graduate the

course on the Commandant's List," said Perkins.

Halvorson, a Memphis, Tenn. Native, has been in the Army for about three-years. She explained that OCS was the logical next step in her military career.

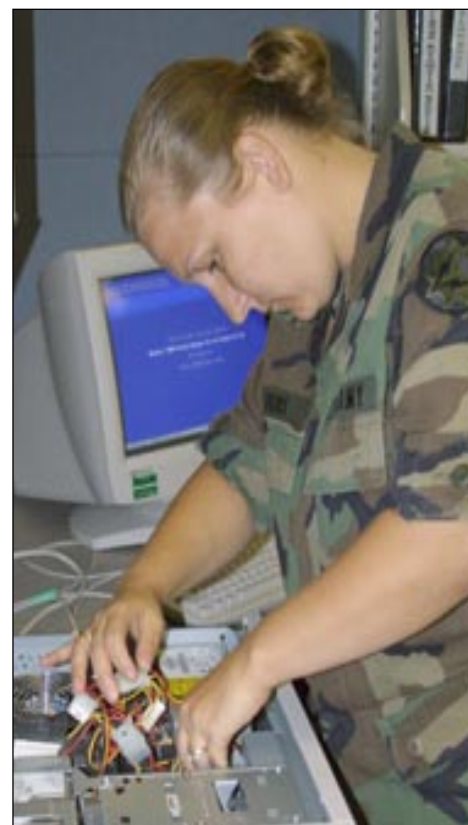
"I'm coming from a family with a history in the military," she said. "I was the first female in the family to join the Army because I wanted to see what I was made of."

Halvorson, who has a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Memphis, said she has a lot of ideas that she wants to implement.

"This (OCS) broadens the scope of my duties," she said. "While before it was about taking care of my soldiers, it will be about taking care of my soldiers and decisive decision making."

"I want to be doing something to improve the quality of life for the soldiers ... the big thing is taking care of soldiers," said Halvorson. "Captain Brue and First Sergeant Bradford have really motivated and pushed me to excel. They said they saw the potential in me. Captain Brue was a great commander and he took care of the soldiers and that is what type of officer I want to be."

Both of these NCOs say they enjoy their jobs so much that they are willing to go this extra mile to learn all they can in



"I'm so excited for Halvorson ... she deserves it," she said as she reconfigures a floppy drive in a CPU. Perkins met Halvorson when they both went to the pregnancy PT sessions.

their field.

"No matter what—strive for your goals," said Perkins. "You can't just rely on the experience that the military is giving you. You really need to have an education."

"I really like the Signal Corps—all of the people, equipment and technology is great," said Halvorson.

With less than eight years of Army service between the both of them, these NCOs are maximizing on the opportunities that the Army has to offer and that is the essence of developing oneself personally and professionally.



One of the bullets on Sgt. Lisa Halvorson's OCS recommendation read, "has an infectious, ferocious and contagious approach to all projects."



Winter 2002-2003

DOIM MISSION, FORT BUCHANAN

2nd Lt. Carlos Cuebas

56th Signal Battalion

The 56th Signal Battalion, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, provides Information Mission Area support to the United States Army South and U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan during war, stability, support operations, and joint/combined operations throughout the Southern Command Area of Operations.

The 56th Sig. Bn. also serves as the Directorate of Information Management, or DOIM, for USARSO and USAG Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

The DOIM mission is to plan, install, operate, maintain, and protect strategic and sustaining base Command, Control, Communication and Computer Systems.

The DOIM is organized with the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and the 94th Signal Company. The HHD, through the Administration Services section, provides publications, records management, mail and distribution, printing and life cycle management

support for USARSO and USAG Fort Buchanan ADP.

Maintaining an accurate database on circuit layout, power distribution, cable and fiber routes, equipment locations, and LAN / WAN Network Equipment locations is the responsibility of the Configuration Management section, also under the HHD. Through the Information Technology Center, the HHD provides automation training to Department of Defense military and civilian personnel with DOD, Army unique and commercial software packages.

The 94th Signal Company, task organized with the Telecommunications and LAN Support Divisions, provides sustaining base and strategic interface communications in support of USARSO and USAG Fort Buchanan.

The Company with its Telecommunications Division provides overall Army management of Long Haul and local communications and data circuits, comprised of DISN, DRSN, DSN, DVSG, and local unique circuits supporting Army and other designated units and organiza-

tions throughout Puerto Rico. The Division, through the Red Switch Section, provides Command and Control and crisis management capabilities throughout Puerto Rico with the use of the Defense Red Switch Network.

Key to the services provided by the Company is the LAN Support Division, responsible for providing local and global computer network services as well as workstation technical management and support. The division operates and maintains the installation's strategic network systems and infrastructure in support of USARSO, tenant and satellite activities missions throughout Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, Central America and South America during joint and combined operations.

The LAN Division, with its key strategic infrastructure, also provides e-mail and electronic storage services, system administration and technical support for the Global Command and Control Systems, plus secured electronic message transfer through the Defense Messaging System network.



Ivan Rodriguez in the Video Tele-Conferencing hub.

Installation Cooks of the Year

Two 93rd Signal Brigade soldiers show professionalism is job one

By Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
PAO NCO

Two 93rd Signal Brigade food service specialists have been named the Fort Gordon Installation Cook of the Year at the Installation Headquarters on Fort Gordon October 22.

After successfully completing a board preceding by a panel of Noncommissioned Officers and a Warrant Officer, Sgt. Jahel Murphy, 93rd Sig. Bde., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, rations NCO, distinguished herself as the

NCO COY, and Pfc. Tinika James, 93rd Sig. Bde., HHC, food service specialist, as the enlisted COY.

Cooks throughout the post are entitled to compete in this competition to challenge themselves.

"Some of the topics included are Military Justice, Uniform Wear and Appearance, Physical Fitness, and Basic Rifle Marksmanship," said Master Sgt. Rachel Evans, 93rd Sig. Bde., HHC, dining facility manager and president of the board. "There are also food service related questions covering nutrition,

sanitation, various forms and reference manuals and field equipment."

"I was extremely nervous because this board is not easy!" said James. "After it was all over though I felt really good—it was worth it."

Aside from studying and preparing for a Soldier of the Month Board, cooks also have to study various food service manuals and regulations to successfully compete in the COY.

"I think that this board has helped me professionally because the questions covered the knowledge I need to have to be at the next level of leadership in my (Military Occupational Specialty)," said Murphy.

"The president of the board gave me a scenario question," she said. "It wasn't really a difficult situation, but I had to rely on my knowledge and experiences to respond. So



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Pfc. Tinika James, pulls cooked hash browns from a deep fryer in preparation for the breakfast meal.

much of the board was about confidence ... confidence in myself."

"These boards are great because you have an opportunity to show your leaders that you are preparing to move up in the ranks," said James. "Also it reinforces the 'right' way of doing things—the regulation. Our dining facility is preparing to compete in the Phillip A. Connelly Award and the inspectors not only evaluate us on food preparation but on knowledge."

The support the soldiers received from their unit and chain of command was tremendous.

"I want to thank my platoon sergeant and supervisor (Sgts. 1st Class Gregory Radford and Michelle Wilson) for motivating me to study and compete. They really instilled that drive I needed to succeed."

"What distinguished these soldiers from the others were their professionalism, appearance and communication skills," said Evans.

And once again the Lightning Warrior Café, already in the competition for Army dining facilities most coveted award, continues to set Lightning Warrior standards for the brigade and Fort Gordon.



Sgt. Jahel Murphy, pulls hamburger meat from the freezer. As LWC rations NCO, she is responsible for about \$50,000 worth of food stuffs.



Shift leader Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Radford checks the breakfast line, with his soldiers, for quality every morning before allowing the Lightning Warrior Café customers to eat. "This is exactly how a Five-Star restaurant does it—they want to ensure their customers only get the best," said Phillip A. Connelly Award evaluator Sgt. Maj. Christopher Lee.

Five-star service at Lightning Warrior Café

93rd Signal Brigade Food Service Personnel strive for coveted Phillip A. Connelly Award

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

PAO NCO

Six months of consistent preparatory training and rigorous early morning hours processing early knows how many pounds, liters and dollars worth of food and drinks culminated at the Fort Gordon Lightning Warrior Café, Dining Facility #13, on Nov. 5-6.

Three evaluators for the Phillip A. Connelly program spent two days with the 93rd Signal Brigade's command and staff and food service personnel to determine which out of the five competitors in the large garrison Army dining facility category, would receive the coveted Phillip A. Connelly Award for Excellence in the Army Food Service.

The evaluators: Richard Shonquist, Certified Food Executive and Chairman of the International Food Service Executives Association; Chief Warrant Officer Peter Motrynczuk, U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School, Army Food Advisor, Fort Lee, Va.; and Sgt. Maj. Willie Lee, USAQM & S, Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence Sergeant Major, Fort Lee, Va.

"The Connelly program was designed to recognize top quality Army dining facility staffs for their contributions to the Army," said Shonquist.

The Connelly program was established in March 1968 to recognize excellence in the Army Food Service. It was named after the late Phillip A. Connelly former IFSEA president who was responsible for obtaining IFSEA sponsorship with the Army, according to the IFSEA.

"Too often food service personnel are overlooked and in the background," he said.

"The Army gets a lot of young soldiers who (dietary wise) are only interested in the hamburgers and French fries," said Shonquist. "So our food service personnel are challenged with meeting the Army's goal of providing well-balanced and nutritional meals that will also appeal to every soldier."

The evaluators said they were impressed with the 93rd Sig. Bde. soldiers

and the amount of command support the dining facility was receiving from top leaders throughout its organization.

"The military inherits their soldiers with habits from home," said Brig. Gen. Eric Shoomaker, Fort Gordon Eisenhower Army Medical Center, commanding general. "And like we teach them how to

properly wear the uniform, we also have to focus on teaching them about nutrition and give them a better outlook on healthy foods—food is the #1 essential for well-being."

"It is interesting how related the medical community and food service industry are," said Shonquist. "Improper sanitation and handling of food is the leading cause for infectious diseases and soldier's illness."

"This program is very, very important to us for two reasons," said Maj.

Gen. James Hylton, Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command, commanding general, Fort



Pfc. Juan Carlos Servin shrugged off his nervousness and continues on his mission.



Chief Warrant Officer Peter Motrynczuk (right) compliments Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Gordon, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde., dining facility manager, on his food service soldiers' performance.

Huachuca, Ariz. "Day-in and day-out the dining facility personnel support our soldiers so we get to recognize them, and two—our great soldiers and staff will grow personally and professionally with the feedback you provide."

"The post is thrilled that you're here—we're thrilled that the 93rd Signal Brigade dining facility brought you here," said Col. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center, chief of staff, Fort Gordon, Ga. "This competition is wonderful. Ultimately the soldiers win because this program increases the quality of our food service program."

The Lightning Warrior Cafe staff began their morning just like every other one. During a 5:30 a.m. cook mount the morning team chief, Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Radford, gave them a prep talk.

"You know the drill—we've been doing this for so long," he said. "Communicate with each other. If you have a question, ask somebody ... now lets get ready to feed our soldiers."

"For six months we've been really preparing for this day," said Sgt. Stephen Leandre, 93rd Sig. Bde., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Food Service NCO. "I was excited and nervous, but once things got going it seemed like just another day."

"The evaluators are probably going to ask me a lot of questions because I'm the lowest ranking," said Pfc. Juan Carlos Servin, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde., food service specialist. Servin waved off any nervous apprehension with a casual shrug. "But it's no problem ... I'm ready."

"If there's one thing to say about this team is that they have great teamwork,"

said Lee. "I have seen the morning office personnel out on the floor helping the afternoon shift. The operation looked great from the beginning of the morning to the end and not just the food service team but the kitchen facility employees looked great as well."

"That crème of broccoli soup that Spc. Regina

Gibson made will knock your socks off," said Motrynczuk.

Each member of the LWC staff was awarded a Finalist Recognition Certificate from the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School, and a Merit Citation from the President of the IFSEA.

Radford and Spc. Karen Algeron-Wallace were additionally recognized with the Celebrate People Special Citation Certificate for their outstanding contributions to the success of the U.S. Army Philip A. Connelly Food Service.

Master Sgt. Rachel Evans, dining facility manager, who was an instrumental link between the 93rd Sig. Bde. command channels and the LWC accepted a plaque

that was issued to the brigade for making it to the DA level competition.

"I'm accepting this award on behalf of the brigade commander, every company commander and first sergeant in the brigade, the cooks who work hard everyday in this facility and the soldiers who come here to eat and make this establishment what it is—the best!" she said.

"Several months ago we discussed what it takes to compete in the Connelly Award," said Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander. "The 93rd pulled together and you (the LWC's staff) have become the best in your field no matter what the final outcome, you should be very proud of this great accomplishment and the hard work you have done—Lightning Warriors!"

Editors note: The Eighth U.S. Army, Wightman NCO Academy, Camp Jackson was awarded the 2002 Phillip A. Connelly Award in February 2003.



Connelly evaluator Richard Shonquist (center) adds humor to the atmosphere and shares a joke with dining facility staff (left to right) Sgt. 1st Class Fitzgerald Hunter, Staff Sgt. Michael Lawrence, Sgt. Johnny Langley and Staff Sgt. Lonnie Lee.

Vaccination *continued from page 11*

If soldiers refuse the vaccination, the first step will be to educate them on the risks of smallpox, Stikes said. Since this is a force health protection issue, continued refusal will most likely be considered failure to follow a lawful order.

Side effects for the smallpox vaccine are usually mild, according to Stikes. They include sore arm, fever, headache, body ache and fatigue and peak after eight to 12 days following vaccination.

If soldiers have any concerns or experience any discomfort or side effects beyond those normally expected with the smallpox vaccination, then they should seek medical advice, Stikes said.

"It's better to be safe than sorry," he said.

You can tell if your vaccination was successful if you see a red, itchy bump form at the vaccination site.

"In the first week, the bump becomes a pus-filled blister," Stikes said. "Then, in the second week, a scab forms. The scab falls off in week three and leaves a small scar."

Although rare, there are some serious side effects possible from the vaccine, Stikes said. Out of one million people, 1,000 will have serious but not life-threatening reactions, 14 to 52 people will have serious skin reactions or brain inflammation, and one or two people may die.

"If it's one in a million for the general population, it will be one in a million for us," he said. "We're a subset of the population."

A thorough and careful screening process, though, will be in place to ensure those at increased risk will not receive the vaccination, Stikes said. The process is

still being refined at this time and streamlining it is also in the works.

And as for the potency of the vaccine to be used, storage duration has had no ill effects, Stikes said.

"It's been freeze-dried," he said. "The vaccine has been tested for potency. Smallpox vaccine lasts a really long time."

The last time the vaccine was used to protect against naturally occurring smallpox was 1977 in Somalia. After that outbreak, the wild, naturally-occurring strains of smallpox were eradicated.

Wild or man-made, smallpox disease symptoms are the same. Smallpox symptoms begin with high fever, head and body aches and possibly vomiting, according to Stikes. A bumpy rash follows. The bumps crust, scab, and fall off after a few weeks, leaving scars.

Following exposure to smallpox, the risk of death is high. Thirty percent of infected people die. For some survivors, there is the risk of blindness.

"It's a bad disease," Stikes said. "Don't get it."

Smallpox is commonly spread by face-to-face contact with an infected person, especially one who is coughing. The

virus travels in the cough's droplets of moisture.

If you have more questions about Smallpox or vaccination programs contact the Center for Disease Control <http://phil.cdc.gov/phil/contact.asp>.



This poster is part of a series of posters collected throughout the world on smallpox and/or measles vaccination. In 1966, the CDC began the worldwide smallpox eradication campaign in Africa and by 1979 the world was declared smallpox-free.

Chaplain *continued from page 12*

That's what I see here."

Larkin added, "The laity has had to learn to do things. We had a revival at Corinth, and it was absolutely wonderful. The Ellaville church helped, and we've learned a lot."

Alsbrook also praised Diane Davies for her involvement with the charge while she also deals with the personal

side the separation.

"She has been the communicator, the liaison and has helped with the schedule of suppling pastors, so many things," he said. "I had always heard Ellaville was a good charge, and it's true."

On the front of Ellaville's bulletin, just below the pastor's name, is a line that reads, "Congregation—Ministers."

This year these two congregations have had unparalleled opportunity to be ministers. When Chap. Davies left, the church changed another portion of its bulletin cover, replacing their Mission Statement with Hebrews 13: 7-8: "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and

imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever."

As they wait for word on when their pastor will be home to stay, the minister's congregation continues to rely on that promise.

Editors note: This article first appeared in the Tri-County Journal/Chattahoochee Chronicle in Buena Vista, GA.

Rock drills Planning makes perfect

By Pfc. Spencer Wilson
63rd Signal Battalion, PA Rep

Terrorist camps have been located in the area by Lower Leitner Lake and George Claussen Pond about 25 miles southwest of Augusta, Georgia.

"These terrorists are moving in small groups armed with small caliber weapons and have the ability to use explosive devices and chemical and riot control agents. The 93rd Signal Brigade will deploy to various locations on Fort Gordon and in the local area to provide communication services in support of military and government anti-terrorist agencies."

Is this actually happening right here in the CSRA?

No, but the officers and soldiers of the 93rd Sig. Bde. are basing their quarterly Situational Training Exercise as if it were.

As part of the preparation

for this exercise, the officers and key leaders of the brigade assembled in Gym 3 in order to conduct a "rock drill" on November 26.

The rock drill has nothing to do with stones, but is a rehearsal tool that provides commanders with a detailed look at exactly how their unit will conduct its mission.

During the rock drill key leaders demonstrate how they will achieve their individual missions in support of the brigade's mission.

Each briefer uses training aides to achieve this that include an oversize floor map, small wooden vehicles to represent each team, and Line of Sight radio antennas fashioned from tinker toys.

As the soldier briefs each part of the mission, he uses the props to show exactly what will be happening during the exercise. By using a large map, individual vehicles can be shown as if they were actually moving along the roads of Fort Gordon. Each

unit also used other tools to include large diagrams that showed graphically site set up, defensive structures, and signal flow.

Each unit leader, down to the SEN Chief level, used the same five-phased, step-by-step briefing. The briefing starts with Phase I – Pre-Combat Inspection to cover the systematic check of each soldier and their equipment to verify it is ready.

Next they discussed Phase II – Movement showing a detailed plan of how a team leaves their motor pool, showing the route they will drive and their safe arrival at their designated location.

In Phase III – Actions on the Objective, the leader details what the soldiers will do after arriving at their destination and contingency plans if something goes wrong.

Phase IV – Install, Operate, Maintain, and Protect focuses on how the signal teams will engineer the communications to provide quality communica-

tions to the customers.

Finally, each briefer concludes with Phase V – Security to highlight the security plan for the soldiers, equipment, and communication devices used.

During the rock drill, each unit leader successfully maneuvered model trucks and antennas throughout Fort Gordon on a 20 square foot map. Following each briefing, Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander, was able to critique and refine the various courses of action that the unit leaders chose.

This provided all of the key leaders immediate feedback along with any guidance necessary to modify their plan.

In his closing comments, Gerstein challenged each and every member of the brigade to improve upon his or her own best performance and for the brigade to certify 100 percent of the teams and crews during the exercise.

Green to Gold scholarships

How soldiers can get an education and an edge on life

•Scholarships are awarded for two, three, or four years.

Soldiers with two years of college are considered for two-year scholarships.

•Soldier with one year of college are considered for three-year scholarships.

•Soldiers without college credit are considered for four-year scholarships.

Benefits for Green to Gold scholarship winners include:

•Tuition support.

•Additional money for textbooks, supplies, and equipment.

•A monthly stipend of \$250 for freshmen and sophomores, \$300 for juniors, and \$350 for seniors; for up to 10 months each school year.

•Pay for attending the five-week ROTC Advanced Camp between the junior and senior year of college.

•If qualified, Montgomery G.I. Bill / Army College Fund (MGIB/ACF) benefits.

•Additionally, many colleges and universities offer incentives such as reduced room and board to scholarship winners.

The Professor of Military Science (PMS) at your college of choice can provide further information on what is available at the school.

The Green to Gold two-year non-scholarship option is available to soldiers who have two years of college and can

complete their college degree requirements in two years.

Benefits for Green to Gold non-scholarship cadets.

•A monthly stipend of up to \$350 for 10-months each school year (depending on whether the student is a college junior or senior).

•Pay for attending the ROTC Advanced Camp between the junior and senior year of college.

•And if qualified, your Montgomery G.I. Bill / Army College Fund (MGIB/ACF) benefits.

For more information view the green to gold website: www.usarotc.com.

Code-Talker *continued from page 6*

Lt. Col. John Rutt, 63rd Signal Battalion, battalion commander, moderated the event and gave a presentation about the Native American society.

Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander, also recognized the contributions of Native American Indians who served in the U.S. military throughout the years, and those who are serving in the 93rd Sig. Bde. now.

When Thomas addressed the audience, he began by saying he was as proud of the soldiers serving in the military today as he was of those who served before.

"It is a great honor to be one of those who fought to protect our nations freedom," said Thomas. "As a member of the Navajo Tribe it was quite an experience to play such an important role in World War II and Korea."

"To this day I remember a request for artillery fire on Hill 682 at Iwo Jima—February 19th, 1945," he said. "In English it was translated as 'request many big guns on sick horse 682. With our Navajo code, Horse meant H, and sick was the ill—which meant hill."

"Our code was interesting and even comical but it was necessary—we saved many (allied) lives," he said.

"The Navajo Language is a difficult language because it is not a written language like the English language," he said. "It is passed down in songs and poetry ... it is a memorized language."

The Navajo language is a reflection of the Navajo life. Which made for an interesting transition for the young Navajo men as they were transformed into military soldiers, said Thomas.

"Navajo life is very different from the city life," he said. "We went through boot camp while we were adjusting to city life. We were used to riding horses and one of the first things (the military) did was load

us all into deuce-and-a half trucks."

For the wives and loved ones, life was particularly worrying.

"The Code-Talkers mission and existence was so secret (the military) would screen and hold their letters—sometimes as long as a month," said Nonabah. "I never knew he was a Code-Talker until Congress declassified their existence in 1968. There were a lot of Navajo wives who were very surprised—the Navajo men simply referred to themselves as 'the fighting people.'"

"My oldest son was surprised. He said, 'dad was what!'" She said. "When he found out he became even more proud of his father."

Thomas joined the Marines in Sept. 1943 at 16- years old to be an aerial gunner but instead he became one of the 33 Navajo soldiers assigned to a top-secret government project with the 5th Marine Division, Signal Company. And this is where the Navajo Code-Talkers developed the indecipherable code.

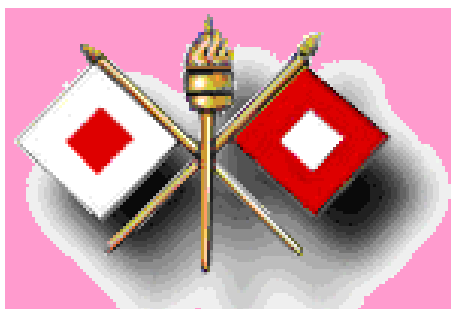
Thomas has been awarded numerous times and among them is the Presidential Unit Citation with three bronze stars, the Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Korean Service Medal with five bronze stars.

The Begays have three sons and a daughter, who have all served in the military, and nine grandchildren. Thomas and Nonabah currently live in Arizona.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Nonabah Begay played the National Anthem in Navajo for the Fort Gordon soldiers.



General speaks to mobilized reservist

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

PAO NCO

As the war on terrorism enters a new level more of the mainstay of the American fighting forces are receiving that call-to-arms from their Uncle Sam.

Brig. Gen. Larry Knighter, 81st Regional Support Group, commander, spoke to several recently activated reservists at the Fort Gordon Bicentennial Chapel January 9.

Knighter drove from Fort Jackson, S.C. to speak to his mobilized soldiers assigned to the 93rd Signal Brigade. He said he wanted to reiterate the importance of their role in the war on terrorism.

"We are all soldiers working together to defend and protect our nation, and our allies, and to ensure that there is continuous freedom for the youth of America, and for those we serve to protect," said Knighter.

Families will be worried and the children will cry for their missing parent but as long as they know their parent is safe, then they will understand their parent's duty to protect them, said Knighter.

"There is a resiliency in American families that once their soldier is mobilized to duty, to protect the country, then the families generally are able to adapt," he said. "Because of the Family Care and Family Readiness programs it is making it much easier for the families to understand what the military does and why it's important for us be mobilized.

"We are doing an even better job of helping the soldiers taking care of their families by preparing them mentally, administratively and financially to ensure that their families are being taken care of while they are mobilized," said Knighter.

Soldiers nodded their heads in approval as Knighter discussed a common bond among soldiers to protect each other.

"I wasn't necessarily activated—I volunteered to be activated," said Staff Sgt. Jerry Wooley, Headquarter Company 93rd Sig. Bde., command transportation NCO.

Wooley watched the events of September 11th unfold and realized he was in an Alabama reserve unit that wasn't going to be active participants in future operations.



Maj. Kevin Naig, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde., S-3 (right), said he volunteered for mobilization to serve with active soldiers once again.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

"I wanted to do my part in the active Army rather than drilling all weekend," he said. "I'm glad to be here."

Not all of the reservists were as ecstatic to hear Uncle Sam's call to arms as Wooley though.

Thirty days after demobilizing from his initial volunteered activation, Spc. Connellus Morgan, said he was surprised to get the message to come back.

"I was released from active duty December 6, 2002, and was activated again January 6, 2003" he said. "I just look at it like 30 days of free leave."

The future is what you make of it though, he said. Morgan, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde., computer repair specialist, said he plans to become an NCO and eventually put in a packet to become warrant officer.

"I'm going to use this time to learn more about my profession from some top notch people who I really respect," he said.

Knighter said he was proud of his soldiers who were serving in the war on terrorism and when Uncle Sam calls the 81st Reg. Spt. Grp. soldiers will be ready.



The senior mentor for BLUE ADVANCE 02, retired Gen. Charles Wilhelm, U.S. Marine Corps., a former commander of USSOUTHCOM, explains a point to exercise participants in the Video Tele-Conference area of the Goya building.

ASA supports Exercise Blue Advance

Story and photos by Maj. Lawrence Karl
ASA chief of operations

Command Control Communications and Computers (C4), success in the joint/interagency operations environment requires a concerted and well-synchronized effort by communicators from Department of Defense (DoD) both military and civilian, federal agencies, and commercial industry. Army Signal Activity (ASA)- SOUTHCOM's signal support for Exercise Blue Advance 02 was one of these fine-tuned efforts.

The ASA participated in the planning, preparation and execution of Exercise Blue Advance (BA) 02. The Biological attack exercise was executed Sept. 8 -13, 2002. The post 9/11 defense environment drove the focus of Blue Advance. BA 02 exercised coordination, and where appropriate, command relationships among U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Northern Command, other joint commands, various federal agencies, and civil authorities during a simulated consequence management (CM) scenario.

The ASA installed a complex system of networks enabling USSOUTHCOM to meet the Commanding General's desire to exercise Command and Control (C2) functions and the battle staff in CM operations. ASA constructed and integrated separate classified and unclassified computer system networks with Defense Information Systems Network (DISN) Services.

The exercise network connected nodes including several locations in the Miami, FL metropolitan area; the Joint Warfare Center (JWFC) Suffolk, VA; Fort Monroe, VA; MacDill AFB, Tampa FL; and Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. The full range of services provided over these networks include SIPRNET, NIPRNET, DSN, AUTODIN (DMS), VTC, Defense Red Switch Network (DRSN), and single channel TACSAT.

Success in September required planning initiated six months earlier. ASA's Future Operations Branch handles the planning for exercises and, this year, David Colon, IT specialist, was the project officer for Blue Advance. The ASA team for BA02 consisted of members of the Operations Division, Security Division, Tech Control, Telecommunications Center (TCC), and VI Branch.

In coordination with Bell South, Richard Chastain, telecommunications specialist, coordinated circuit provisioning among exercise sites. Security of networks is critical and Eloise Elmer, information systems security manager, completed requirements for Interim Authority to Operate (IATO) for the new network segments established for the exercise.

After delivery of commercial circuits, the main efforts shifted to the Technical Control facility under the leadership of Edwin Maldonado, patch and test facility supervisor. Soldiers in the Tech Control facility extended circuits from the SOUTHCOM Headquarters building to the appropriate routers

and VTC systems, essentially extending communications capability to support newly established exercise nodes.

Interoperability is always the significant challenge. For BA 02, interoperability is made more complex given the joint/inter-agency characteristics, and the expectations of exercise participants outside of the Army and the DoD.

Building the integrated communications systems from the exercise, operational architecture required a keen understanding of C4 requirements, and communicators establishing “common ground” for communications capability.

Even more challenging than the establishment of a common architectural baseline was provisioning C4 support to the end-user.

The ASA team transformed the Miami Goya building node from a warehouse with several office spaces into an adequate operations facility of service component response cells, exercise controller cells, and role players. It also provided the C4 capability that is customary for the various federal agencies.

Bill Davis, installation technician, led the efforts of Management Technology (MANTECH), the major contractor for ASA Operations Division. In two weeks, the wiring and installation of 85 telephones, 18 SIPRNET workstation fiber optic cables,

71 NIPRNET category 5 copper cables for workstations, and over 2000 feet of RG6 coaxial cable extending the VTC to all corners of the building, was accomplished.

Colon had worked closely with SOUTHCOM J3 and J6 personnel on the physical layout of the building and ensured that all building furniture was correctly positioned for each workstation.

Colon then began the process of connecting the NIPRNET workstations to the exercise domain assisted by another group of Operations Division contractors under Sandy Grajales, workstation technician.

David Velis, senior information specialist engineer, had previously configured the Domain Controller and other system administrators had created the user accounts.

Concurrently, Craig Smith, computer specialist, from the ASA's Telecommunications Center, configured the Automated Mail Handling System (AMHS) on each of the SIPRNET workstations. This application allows for workstation level access for AUTODIN message drafters and releasers.

Build out complete, mission focus turns to day-to-day operations for the ASA team, including 24/7 coverage for all functional areas including network systems troubleshooting, firewall administration and assistance by the TCC for AUTODIN/AMHS issues. All-in-all, a tremendous C4 effort and a job well done in support of the warfighter.



Col. Daniel Gerstein and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Scandrick receive a brief on the ASA's Blue Advance exercise preparation from David Colon. This room in the Goya Building in Miami was used prior to startex to configure systems and during the exercise as the civil agency player cell.

Winter 2002-2003

The Sleeping Giant Awakes

The Fort Gordon BOSS team has big plans for single soldiers' off-duty life.

By Pfc. Spencer Wilson

A Co. 63rd Signal Battalion

The barracks, post-exchange, commissary, all 15 dining facilities, and some post-housing issues fall under one program's jurisdiction—the Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers program.

The program was established in 1989 to help Army single soldiers have a larger say in the aspects that affect their life.

For more than a decade, BOSS has been serving Army soldiers and has extended the program to include the servicemembers in the Navy, Marines and Air Force.

After remaining dormant for a decade, BOSS is preparing for a transformation of immense proportions.

BOSS is scheduled to integrate with the Family Support Group, Brems Barracks, recreational centers, youth services, single civilians, Augusta law-makers, local business owners and CEO, with one goal in mind—to make a better opportunity for Fort Gordon's single soldiers.

The sleeping giant has awakened and is insisting that it has a voice in every aspect of the single soldiers life.

There are some soldiers who do not



believe that BOSS is a good program. Your opinion is valued, but before long BOSS is guaranteed to affect you in one way or another—so prepare for the inevitable.

BOSS has been a part of Fort Gordon and the Augusta Community for more than a decade. BOSS is an Army wide initiative to provide single soldiers with a decision in their leisure activities, community service and personal quality of life.

Fort Gordon is one of few Army posts that not only cater to the needs of the Army single soldiers, but to the Navy, Marines and Air force single soldiers. Diana Sarber, Army Emergency Relief director, served as the Morale Welfare and Recreation advisor to the BOSS program for the past 4 years. Sarber turned the command over to Ayanna Wiggins, MWR marketing assistant and MWR advisor to the BOSS program on January 1.



Photo by Pfc. Spencer Wilson

Ayanna Wiggins is scheduled to become the MWR advisor to the BOSS program.

Sarber leaves behind a legacy of successful leisure activities, community service events, and an overall improvement to quality of life for Fort Gordon's single, married, and civilian personnel.

With the help of Sarber, the commitment of the BOSS representatives, and the support of the surrounding community, the BOSS program has received three first place trophies and one second-place trophy for the Best Installation at the Army wide BOSS Conference.

It looks to be a tremendous year for the BOSS program. With new leadership, new goals, plans and objectives. Wiggins' whose presence was felt long before her official assignment, feels BOSS is doing a great job.

"My goals for the program is not that complex," said Wiggins. "If we are successful at setting goals and being proactive and following through, then I know the program will continue to be recognized as one of the best."



Photo courtesy of the BOSS Homepage

Single soldiers challenge the rapids during a BOSS sponsored White Water Rafting trip. The BOSS program frequently sponsors such trips to include Walt Disney World.



Photo by Pfc. Spencer Wilson
Spc. Bambie Smith, 252nd Sig. Co., was selected as the Brigade Soldier of the 2nd Quarter.



Lt. Col. Stephen Jurinko, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde., former deputy brigade commander received a Meritorious Service Medal. (Photo by Pfc. Spencer Wilson).

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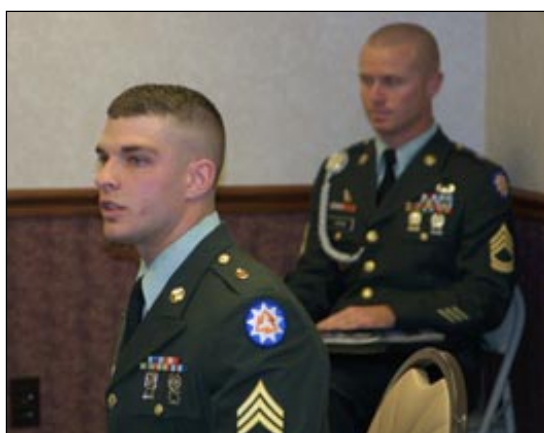


Photo by Pfc. Spencer Wilson
Sgt. Joshua Carr (left), 252nd Sig. Co., was selected as the Brigade NCO of the 2nd Quarter.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
Lt. Col. James Blackmon, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde., becomes the deputy brigade commander.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

During a ceremony at Darling Hall, Col. Daniel Gerstein and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Scandrick recognized Headquarters Company 93rd Sig. Bde. soldiers (left to right) Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Gordon and Sgt. 1st Class Antoinette Brunson, dining facility managers, for the CG's Best Mess for the 2002 Thanksgiving Meal, and Sgt. Jahel Murphy and Pfc. Tanika James as the Installation NCO and Cook of year for 2002.

A picture is worth a thousand words—but a picture *and* a *thousand words* is a great story!!



Submissions should not be more than three months old. Articles should be submitted on a 3.5" floppy disk as a Word Document or even handwritten. Digital photos are preferred and should be saved as a JPEG without ANY alterations or corrections!! Giffs, Tiffs and hard copies are acceptable.

Photos and articles must be in good taste and the editor reserves the right to edit submissions as per commander's intent, Associated Press Style guide and DoD requirements.



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